(b) if so, the details of the number of applications received so far;

(c) whether administrative approval to the applications have been granted and funds released to the State; and

(d) if so, the details of the approval granted and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A total number of 2049 applications for construction of houses by individual beedi workers were received through the Government of Kerala under the Revised Integrated Housing Schemes, 2007 for Beedi workers etc. Out of 2049 applications, on the basis of availability of funds, 661 houses, involving a total subsidy of Rs. 2.64 crore, have been granted administrative approval. The remaining applications are being examined and will be considered when funds become available. As per the provision of the Revised Integrated Housing Schemes, 2007, if the Beedi workers are constructing their houses on individual basis, the funds will be released to the workers directly and not to the State Government.

Rescue of Child Labour in Delhi

1345. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minor children were rescued from factories in Delhi who were preparing mirror frames from broken bangles in LNJP Colony; and

(b) if so, what action Government has taken against the employers of minor children in the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the State Government of NCT of Delhi, as FIR under section 374 of the IPC, 26 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and section 16 of Bonded Labour (System) Abolition Act, 1976 has been filed with the local Police for undertaking investigations of the matter as per law.

Private sector for treatment of garbage in metropolitan cities

†1346. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sectors are being encouraged for treatment of garbage in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether Government will also formulate any scheme with regard to emoluments and health care of people engaged in the work of garbage collection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As one of the option reforms of Jawaharlal Nehru National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Public Private Partnership (PPP) are being encouraged for treatment of garbage in certain metro cities while approving the Solid Waste Management projects under JNNURM, State Government/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are advised to involve PPP in Solid Waste Management activities and its further operation and maintenance under JNNURM.

(b) and (c) There is no specific scheme with regard to emoluments and health care of people engaged in the work of garbage collection. However, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families in Unorganised Sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007. The Below Poverty Line unorganized sector worker and his family (a unit of five) will be covered under the scheme. The total sum insured would be Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis. The benefits will start accruing from 1st April, 2008.

Freedom to States for flexible labour policy

1347. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has proposed an Industrial Park Ordinance with flexible labour policy;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is considering to give freedom to the State Government in adopting flexible labour policy when the State Governments so desire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had sent draft Gujarat Industrial Park Ordinance, 2003 for obtaining the approval of the Central Government.

The proposal was examined and it was observed that the amendments proposed may not safeguard the interest of the workers. Therefore, the Government of Gujarat had been advised to reformulate its views and submit a revised proposal after due consultation with the Central Trade Unions.

(c) Labour Laws are enacted by the Government to protect the interests of workers. The proposals from the State Governments related to labour issues are examined on case to case basis.

Fall in employment rate

1348. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment rate has fallen in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent